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SUBJECT: AUSTRIA SUPPORTS EXTENSION OF BELARUS SANCTIONS

REF: STATE 112644

(SBU) Polchief discussed reftel points November 6 with Josef Litschauer, MFA Deputy Director for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. Litschauer said the GOA shares the USG view that the reform process in Belarus has stalled. He said Belarus "wasted" the opportunity to enact meaningful reforms during the last period of suspended EU travel restrictions. The GOA, therefore, supports an extension of both the sanctions and their suspension. Litschauer said there is broad support for this view within the EU; the only differences are over the length of the suspension. The most likely outcome of the GAERC meeting would be a repeat of the decision made last year - to extend the sanctions for 12 months and suspend them for nine, he said.  
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